



A very faint, large watermark-like image of a classical building with four prominent columns and a triangular pediment occupies the background of the page.

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GURLEY FAMILY HISTORY



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# GURLEY FAMILY HISTORY

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Residents of  
Pennsylvania and Maryland

\* \* \* \* \*

By

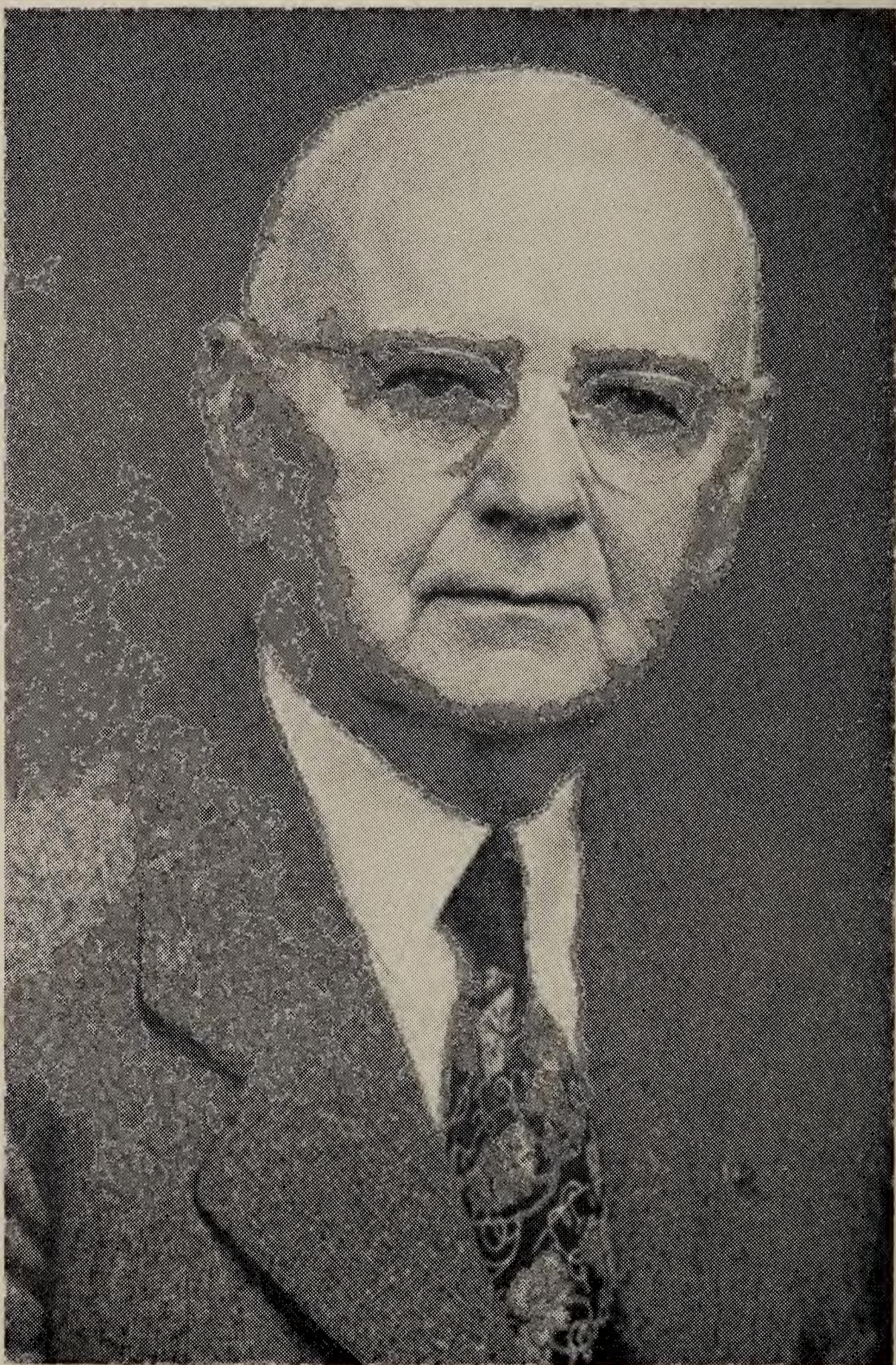
Dr. Lycurgus Martin Gurley

1958

FLOYD G. HOENSTINE  
CENTOLOGY  
Box 293  
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA.

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**DR. LYCURGUS M. GURLEY**  
**(At age of 80 years)**

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# Gurley Family History

Compiled 1958

By

Lycurgus Martin Gurley, M.D.

Johnstown, Pa.

Our first known original ancestor was Thomas Gourley, born March 1, 1742, of Scotch-Irish descent who came from England to America, landing in Philadelphia, Pa. He settled in Lancaster County, and the Pennsylvania Archives reads "a roll call, Col. James Bird's Co., on their march to Pittsburgh, May 1761, from Lancaster, Pa., Thomas Gourley". The Register of Continental Army officers reads as follows: "Gourley, Thomas of Pennsylvania, Second Lt. Miles Pa. Reg. March 1776, 1st Lt. December 1776, Captain, May 1777 and served longer". He was assessed in Cole-rain Township, Lancaster County in 1779, and afterwards in Cumberland Township, York County, in 1780-81-82-83-90, and in Liberty Township, Adams County, in 1801. The 1790 census for York County shows that they had four sons all under sixteen years of age. His wife's name was Tibiah, born February 28, 1749 (Isibia per old Bible leaf) and the sons were: (Bible record).

Moses, born May 21, 1783  
Thomas, born May 31, 1785  
John, born September 26, 1787  
James, born December 12, 1789

This Thomas, above, born in 1785, was my great-grandfather for we inspected his tombstone recently for positive proof in the Sinking Spring Presbyterian Cemetery, near Arch Spring, in Tyrone Township, Blair County, Pa. This also solves the old family story of the four Gourley brothers. This family was born and raised in York County (Adams County since 1800) as the Orphans Court records of Adams County show that Thomas' Will was probated June 9, 1803, and his wife's, Tibiah, on August 8, 1804, also that guardians were appointed for the children. Thomas, born in 1785, was listed as of 19 years of age so now we know where he was born and that he spent his early life in Adams County and not in Hollidaysburg, Blair County. Their home and property was located in Liberty Township, adjacent to Frederick County, Md. It is reasonable to suppose that Thomas, II, now an heir in the estate and 19 years old, grew up and lived there, and there married Margaret McCullough who was born December 27, 1787. The two children born to this union were: Thomas III, on January 29, 1810, (my grandfather) and Martha K., in 1808.

Thomas II, was married three times, his third wife being Mary Stewart of Sinking Valley, Blair County. She was born in 1807 and died in 1895. This family of Thomas, II, moved to Frederick County, Maryland, after Thomas, III, was born in 1810. Courthouse records in Frederick County show little, only one deed to a nine

acre plot called "Monocracy Branch" located near the Pennsylvania line, as mentioned in the records of March 30, 1814. No Will is on record of any Gurley in Frederick County. They lived in the Thurmont area in Sabillasville. He conducted a tannery business, served as Justice of the Peace, and was elected Sheriff of Frederick County in 1836.

This is convincing proof concerning Thomas, II, as to where he lived, died and is buried. He and his third wife, Mary Stewart, a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth, of Laurelvile, Sinking Valley. (near Arch Spring) lived and purchased a property in Laurelvile from James Crawford in Blair County, on December 22, 1858. Courthouse records in Blair County show that he made a Will on May 5, 1863, probated January 25, 1864, leaving his estate to his wife, Mary, a son, Thomas, and daughter, Martha K. Wilson. A visit to the Sinking Valley Presbyterian Cemetery, near Arch Spring still shows a large tombstone bearing the Inscription: "Thomas Gurley, died January 8, 1864, in the 79th year of his age". This proves that he was born in 1785, and corresponds to the Bible record for Thomas II, one of the four Gurley brothers.

His wife, Mary, then only fifty-seven, moved to Clarion County Pa., and on June 10, 1876, deeded the property she inherited from her husband, to the heirs of her husband by his first marriage, namely: Thomas III, and Martha K. Wilson. Both dying, their heirs sold the property to Henry Burnshire on June 22, 1889. The names of the various heirs are named in the deed as living in Blair, Pa., and in Frederick and Allegheny Counties, Md. This clarifies the most difficult part of the family history.

I might add that a tombstone, in the Sinking Valley Presbyterian Cemetery, standing near Thomas Gurley's is the daughter's, it reads: "Martha K. Wilson, died November 5, 1877, in her 69th year, rest in peace". She was born in 1808, a daughter of Thomas, II and next to this stone is that of Mary Wilson, her daughter, born March 15, 1841, who was a teacher and principal in the Altoona Public schools until her death on April 1, 1918, while visiting in Johnstown, Pa. Martha K. was the sister of Thomas, III, my grandfather, and married William Wilson.

We now take up the record of Thomas Gurley, III, who went to Frederick County, Md., when young, with his parents. He was born on January 10, 1810, and was my grandfather, whom I remember very well. The family resided in the Thurmont rural area, near Sabillasville and Eylersville. He received a very good education and took up the study of law, becoming an attorney, and interested in the tanning business with his father. He became prominent politically and served as county commissioner and as a school teacher. He lived in Eylersville, next door to Charles A. Eyler, whose son married his daughter, Charlotte.

Thomas Gurley, III, married Amanda Stull, born June 8, 1814, on November 12, 1833, and to this union seven children were born, all in Frederick County, Md., where they all attended school and received a good education in the Mechanicstown District. In the year 1860, the entire family, except Charlotte who married in 1857, moved to Cumberland, Md., in Allegheny County, where Thomas, III, became superintendent of the Deford Bottle Run Tannery and ran it successfully until his death from a heart attack on September 8, 1886. The Bottle Run and Union Grove District, a suburban area

of Cumberland, had many "well to do" families such as Smouse, Frantz and Gurley. The original home of Thomas, III, just a few miles out the Bedford Street Road, still stands and is occupied by family descendants. Thomas, III, died September 8, 1886, and is buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Cumberland, Md. His widow, Amanda Stull Gurley, died on June 8, 1904, at the age of 90 years. To this union seven children were born:

- I. Charlotte Louise, born February 20, 1835, first child, married Charles A. Eyler on October 29, 1857, and their eight children were: Thomas F., Ellen I. who married Albert Colliflower of Graceham; Emma C. who married John C. Firer, Edward R., Charles R., and three children who died early. Charles A. Eyler died January 21, 1901, and his wife, Charlotte, October 18, 1879. Both are buried in the United Brethren Cemetery at Thurmont, Md.
- II. Mary Jane, born January 11, 1837, wed Boyd Bowden on January 21, 1863. Children; Martha, Nettie, Harry and Flora.
- III. Amanda Stull, born December 6, 1838, wed Thornton Hendrickson. Children: Charles, Marion and Bessie Pearl.
- IV. Lycurgus Franklin, born July 17, 1840, wed Rosanna Belle Frantz, born January 9, 1844, on October 6, 1861. Their twelve children were: Julia A., Clara L., Rosa M., Thomas W., Charles R., John F., Bertha M., Lycurgus M., Jessie B., Emma J., Howard N., and Oscar C.
- V. Malinda Anne, wed Martin L. Dicken on August 25, 1864. Their children: John, Hattie, Anna, Bessie and Harry.
- VI. Thomas Jefferson, born January 2, 1851, wed Emma Willard Brotemarkle, born October 1, 1852, on November 7, 1872. Their children: Courtney M., Flora I., Stanford A., Eddice U., Pleasant V., Harry J., and Vera Olena.
- VII. Margaret Ellen, youngest daughter, born October 22, 1855, wed Leonard W. Rice. Their children: Myrtle B., Nellie M., Ruth A., and Grace Irene.

This history of our Gurley ancestors has been very difficult to compile and I would like to mention that my cousin, Vera O. Gurley of Cumberland, Md., (spinster) and myself, now a grandfather residing at Johnstown, Pa., are the only ones still living at this date, December, 1958. Lycurgus Franklin Gurley, my father (number 4 above) was born July 17, 1840, the eldest son of Thomas, III, wed Rosanne Belle Frantz, born January 9, 1844, on October 6, 1861. To this union twelve children were born. He received an excellent education in Frederick County and was offered a college course but preferred a business career. He assisted in the management of the Company Store at Bottle Run for several years. Then this young couple, after acquiring real estate from her father, William B. Frantz, who lived in a fine big brick home at the head of Union Grove, built a home between there and the head of Bottle Run. It is a ten room red brick house of beautiful design and surroundings. Both of these big brick houses are well preserved and are still in use. They spent the rest of their lives in this home and ten of their children reached adult life while two died in infancy. They were very prosperous and being my parents I remember so well how happy and progressive they lived to raise such a large

family. They were members and officers of the Zions Lutheran Church. She died from pneumonia on December 3, 1906, and he died on March 27, 1907, from heart failure, being found dead in bed. Both are buried in the Zions Lutheran Cemetery. Their children were as follows:

- I. Julia Amanda, born July 16, 1862, died at the age of 3½ years from scarlet fever, and buried in Zions Lutheran Cemetery.
- II. Clara Lunette, born July 17, 1864, was a church organist and a very fine seamstress. She lived on Bedford Street in Cumberland, Md., and married John Bowen on January 22, 1914, at the age of fifty years. No children. Both buried in Zions Lutheran Cemetery.
- III. Rosa Myrtle, born June 15, 1865, died at age of 2½ years from scarlet fever, and buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery.
- IV. Thomas William, born August 26, 1867, eldest son in this family, was a mechanical genius. At the age of 19 he built an early bicycle from a buggy wheel. After ending school at Wilsons Academy, he spent three years with L. C. Ressler, a jeweler in Cumberland, then two years with Dan J. Betz, a jeweler in Frostburg, Md. Then after a one year's tour on a Columbia Light roadster bicycle in Germany and Canada, he opened his own jewelry store in Meyersdale, Pa., November 10, 1893. He was very successful and added bicycles and sporting goods to his line. In 1906, he opened an automobile shop and helped build the first car that crossed the Allegheny Mountain. He held full membership in all Masonic bodies. He married May Gunter, born November 10, 1868, on June 5, 1895, in Frostburg, Md. She died November 14, 1899, at home, from acute peritonitis. To this union two children were born: Mary Edith on May 10, 1896, who married Llewellyn H. Roe on December 6, 1919, and they had a son killed in Army action in Germany on March 10, 1945. Sarah Belle, the second child was born May 4, 1899, and died of diphtheria on December 19, 1908.

He married a second time to Anna W. Thomas, born November 7, 1875, at Lansford, Pa., on January 1, 1902. The death of Thomas William Gurley, Sr., was very sad because his second wife, Anna, died on January 20, 1920, and he died suddenly on April 4, 1920, in Memorial Hospital in Johnstown, Pa., while being treated for kidney trouble. All of the deceased in this family are interred in the Meyersdale Union Cemetery. Their children were:

- (1) Thomas William, Jr., born October 14, 1902, who was an enthusiastic airplane flyer and had talent like his father. He was one of the first to carry mail by plane between New York and Washington, and on July 8, 1929, his plane crashed over Berlin, N. J., and he was burned to death while pinned in the cabin, before any rescue could be made.
- (2) Anna, born August 8, 1904, died August 26, 1904.
- (3) Lycurgus Franklin, born November 30, 1906, is a very successful store manager and lives in Philadelphia, Pa. He is greatly interested in this family history and his hobby is building toy engines and trains. He married Bertha

May Maxwell on March 23, 1931, and they have two charming daughters: Anna May, born June 27, 1937, and Bertha Louise, born July 12, 1939, both in Abington, Pa.

(4) John Wilbur, born November 8, 1907, also lives in Philadelphia, Pa., and owns and operates very successfully a large gas station. He married on October 27, 1934, Edna Florence Nitch. They have no children.

V. Charles Randolph, born September 16, 1869, conducted a novelty store in Cumberland, Md., for years until suffering an infection of the left knee, which required an amputation of the leg. He then took up very successfully truck gardening and fowl raising. He married Bessie Hinkle, born March 16, 1883, on January 1, 1902. He never enjoyed very good health and died July 28, 1922 of tuberculosis, and is buried in Greenmont Cemetery. His wife and sons still reside in Cumberland, Md. To this union five children were born:

- (1) Marie, born October 13, 1904, married Russell Wentling.
- (2) Mildred, born April 6, 1906, married Carl Olm.
- (3) Charles R., Jr., a prosperous garage owner in Cumberland.
- (4) Woodrow W., a successful insurance agent.
- (5) Harriet, born January 14, 1914, married Joseph E. Kelly.

VI. John Franklin, born January 9, 1872, suffered at the age of 6 years a partial loss of hearing from scarlet fever which handicapped him through life. He was a very good truck gardener all his life. He married Grace Stull on August 26, 1928. He died January 24, 1955. Both are buried near Thurmont, Frederick County, Md. No children.

VII. Bertha May, born March 8, 1874, was a great lover of books and after a fine education followed school teaching for many years. She married Walker Wentling, a smithy, in Cumberland, and had two sons; Archibald and Ivan. She died from a heart attack and is buried in a church cemetery near her home.

VIII. Lycurgus Martin, born March 10, 1876, completed his education at Bottle Run School and Wilsons Academy. He then took the County Board for a teacher's certificate, followed by two years with his brother, Thomas, at Myersdale, Pa., doing jewelry and optical work, and post graduate studying. The next three years doing optical work in Pittsburgh, Pa. Admitted in 1900 to the University of Maryland for the M.D. degree. Practiced one year in Grafton, W. Va., then came to Johnstown, Pa., in June, 1905. Life member Cambria County Medical Society, life member American College of Surgeons, Diplomate American Board of Ophthalmology, life member Sunnghanna County Club. Chief of Eye Staff and Lecturer to the student nurses for twenty-five years at Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital. 1925, a tour of four months with Mayo Assembly Clinic to leading medical centers of Europe. Served as a Captain in the U. S. Army Medical Corps during 1918. Received an honorary plaque in 1955, from Pennsylvania Medical Society, for fifty years of practice. Retired from active practice in June, 1956. Member of all Masonic bodies for over

50 years. Took a wonderful trip by airplane "Around the World" in 1957. Married Sally Becket Young, born September 3, 1882, on September 23, 1909. She was a graduate of the Johnstown High School, a talented musician, and a golf and bowling champion. She died from cancer on September 30, 1951, and is buried in Grandview Cemetery at Johnstown, Pa. To this union two sons were born:

- (1) Lycurgus Martin, Jr., on August 19, 1910, who graduated from the Westmont High School, received a B.S. Degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and an M.D., from Temple University in 1933. He served two years internship at Memorial Hospital, one year general practice at Nanty-glo and two years of eye surgery at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. He joined his father in practice in 1937 and is now a leading ophthalmic surgeon of central Pennsylvania, and chief at the Memorial Hospital. He served three years and a half in the U. S. Navy and Marine Corps as Lieut. Commander during World War II, and ended up in Peiping, China. He is a tennis and golf champion, member of all Masonic bodies, the Lions Club, the Bachelors Club, and the Sunnehanna Country Club. He married Grace Mae Clouting of Richfield, Pa., on February 15, 1941, who was educated at Susquehanna University and the Harrisburg Hospital School of Nursing. Her hobby is golf and hospital service. No children.
- (2) James Young, second son, born May 31, 1914, graduated from the Westmont High School and the University of Pennsylvania with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Economics in 1936. He entered the insurance business in Philadelphia, spent two summers in the C.M.T.C., training at Fort Meade, Md., enlisted under the selective service in the United States Army in April, 1941, served over three years in the South West Pacific and was discharged from the service on June 22, 1945, after 52 months. He was awarded five citation medals for service; the Good Conduct Medal, Pearl Harbor Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, two battle stars for Papua and New Guinea campaigns, and the Presidential Citation for the Burma Campaign.

He served two years as Veterans Administration Insurance Officer at Pittsburgh. Since then he has conducted very successfully an insurance business for himself. He is secretary and treasurer of the University of Pennsylvania Club in Pittsburgh, Pa. On August 2, 1947, he married Pearl Mae Zawadzki of Erie, Pa., a graduate of Allegheny College and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Sorority. To this union two children were born; Sally on May 21, 1948, and James on April 25, 1950. They reside in Pittsburgh, Pa.

IX. Jessie Belle, born August 12, 1878, after finishing school, spent several years with her brother, Thomas, in Meyersdale. She married Professor Ira M. Long on July 31, 1901, who was the principal of the Bedford High School for over ten years, and editor of the Bedford Gazette. They moved to Erie, Pa., where he served as high school principal for many years until a sudden death following an operation in 1934. She passed a

way on August 1, 1957, and they are interred in the Erie Cemetery. To this union five children were born:

- (1) Sara Belle, born September 15, 1902, married Dr. Milton A. Gilmore.
- (2) Hazel, born March 25, 1904, died April 11, 1904, and is buried in the Zions Lutheran Cemetery at Cumberland, Md.
- (3) Lycurgus Samuel, born June 3, 1905, a very prosperous business man of Gettysburg, Pa. He married Marguerite Rogers on December 23, 1933, who willingly helped trace our family history in York County. They have two children, Samuel and Marguerite.
- (4) Ira Martin, born March 15, 1913.
- (5) Charles Henry, born March 30, 1915, graduated from the Pennsylvania State College, entered the United States Army on December 26, 1940, as a Second Lieutenant, went to the Phillipines in 1941, sent to Bataan, and after the fall of Corregidor was listed as missing.

X Emma Jane, born March 22, 1880, was a very lovely girl but developed tuberculosis as she finished school and was sent to Southern Pines for recovery but died March 21, 1902, and buried in Zions Lutheran Cemetery.

XI Howard Newton, born February 12, 1883, became a watchmaker for the Hamilton Watch Company at Lancaster, Pa., for a period of 20 years, went to California for two years, then returned to Cumberland, retired, suffered a brain hemorrhage, and died April 27, 1930, and is buried in Zions Lutheran Cemetery.

XII. Oscar Cleveland, born April 30, 1886, was the youngest of this family. He also was the most charitable, always striving to help others in a gracious manner. He owned a large garage and sold Chrysler cars for over 30 years successfully. He served during World War I as a Government Air Pilot, and was instrumental in building the Cumberland Air Port. He married Sarah P. Mathias on June 26, 1912, who is an ardent golfer and a champion and still resides in Cumberland, Md. No children. He suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and passed away on August 31, 1955. Interred in Hillcrest cemetery.

Thomas Jefferson Gurley, second son of Thomas III, was born January 2, 1851, and later bound over to Edward Parks until he became of age. He served as a clerk and general manager of the Bottle Run Company Store. Married Emma Willard Brotemarkle on November 7, 1872, to which union seven children were born. He always followed the grocery business and operated the finest store in Cumberland, Md., under the firm name of T. J. Gurley and Son, which was conducted successfully for more than 40 years until discontinued in 1936. He suffered a heart attack and died April 28, 1926, while his wife died on January 28, 1913, both buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery at Cumberland, Md. Their children were as follows:

- (1) Martin Courtney, the eldest son, born September 23, 1873, married Frances Bishop who died on January 24, 1931, survived by two children; Clyde Courtney and Mary Willard.
- (2) Flora Inez, born January 28, 1876, unmarried, died April 14, 1921.
- (3) Stanford Arthur, born January 10, 1878, married Ella Harrison who died April 30, 1937. Their children were: Eloise Peregay and Edwin Arthur.
- (4) Eddice Ursula, born October 31, 1883, died unmarried May 30, 1953.
- (5) Pleasant Veranda, born September 5, 1885, married George Lewis Mobley, to which union eight children were born; Georgia, Winifred, Pearl, Paul, George, Clarence, Robert and Maurice.
- (6) Harry Jefferson, born October 8, 1889, married Leota Rebecca Eyler on November 15, 1910, and their children are: Arthur Edward and Catherine Mae. He died February 1, 1955 and is buried in the Greenmont Cemetery.
- (7) Vera Olena, born October 3, 1892, unmarried, has spent her years in Cumberland, Md., but expects to be admitted to the wonderful Lutheran Church Home in Washington, D.C., since she has retired. She rendered valuable assistance in the preparation of this family history. All the other members of this family are deceased and mostly buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery at Cumberland, Md.

#### COMMENT

There is at present possibly a hundred descendants of this family living in and around Cumberland, Md.

My grandfather, William B. Frantz, my mother's father, who married Peter Smouse's sister was one of the wealthiest men in Cumberland, Md., and his five sons all had large families.

We all remember grandmother Gurley as she lived to be 90 years of age, weighed over 300 pounds, and smoked a pipe almost constantly while sitting in a rocking chair wearing her night cap, in front of a log fireplace. She often gave me a penny to burn out the clay pipes. She lost her eye-sight in her last few years from mature cataracts.

It would be very interesting to visit the old flat tombstone, four feet high, erected in 1864, at the grave of Thomas Gurley II, (my great-grandfather) who died in his 79th year. It is in the Sinking Valley Presbyterian Cemetery, near Arch Spring, in the lower part of Sinking Valley, Blair County, Pa. Next to his tomb is that of his daughter's, Martha K. Wilson, sister of Thomas III, and next to her's is Mary Wilson, her daughter. They stand in line just within the front gate entrance.

This history only follows the line of the three Thomas Gurleys, as the other descendants are too numerous to carry out in detail.









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